

CLAIMS

1. An electronic device, having an exterior surface, the electronic device
5 comprising:
an actuator for providing, when enabled, a first texture at a first portion of the
exterior surface of the electronic device and for providing, when disabled, a
second texture at the first portion of exterior surface of the electronic device;
a user interface for changing the status of the electronic device from a first
10 status to a second status; and
a processor operable to enable the actuator during the first status and disable
the actuator during the second status.
2. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first texture provides
15 discontinuities in the first portion of the exterior surface.
3. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first texture feels
bumpy or rough to the touch.
- 20 4. An electronic device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the second texture feels
relatively smooth to the touch.
5. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator
continuously provides the first texture at the first portion of the exterior surface
25 of the electronic device while the electronic device has the first status.
6. An electronic device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the actuator
continuously provides the second texture at the first portion of the exterior
surface of the electronic device while the electronic device has the second
30 status.

7. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises extendible projections, which are extended when the actuator is enabled and retracted when the actuator is disabled.

5 8. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises extendible projections, which are extended when the actuator is disabled and retracted when the actuator is enabled.

9. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises
10 one or more polymer actuators.

10. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises one or more stepper motors.

15 11. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises a plurality of actuators and the processor is operable to selectively enable the actuators.

12. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first status of the
20 electronic device is changeable to the second status only via user interface.

13. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuator when enabled is indicative of an operational mode of the electronic device.

25 14. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein immediate user attention is not necessary when the electronic device has the first status.

15. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic device
30 is operational when it has the first status and is non-operational when it has the second status.

16. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic device is mute when it has the first status and is not mute when it has the second status.

5 17. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic device is being used as a gaming device when it has the first status.

18. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the exterior surface of the electronic device is directly or indirectly accessible to the user

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19. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, operable as a mobile cellular telephone

20. An electronic device as claimed in claim 1, operable as an accessory for a
15 mobile cellular telephone.

21. A user-replaceable cover for an electronic device as claimed in claim 1, providing at least the first portion of the exterior surface of the electronic device and comprising the actuator.

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22. A user-replaceable cover for an electronic device, the cover comprising:
An exterior surface;
means for providing, when enabled, a first texture at a first portion of the exterior surface; and
25 an interface for forming an electrical connection with the electronic device.

23. A method of controlling an electronic device comprising:
providing a first configuration of a surface area of the electronic device;
receiving user input to change the operational status of the device; and
30 providing a second configuration of the surface area of the electronic device instead of the first configuration.